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OUTCOME OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: DRAFT DECLARATION AND DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Information on social development publications and indicators in the United Nations system

Note by the Secretariat

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present document contains information on publications of the United Nations system on social issues and on statistics and indicators used to quantify levels of living and trends in social conditions. It has been prepared in response to decision 1/5 of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development at its first session (A/49/24). The information in this report has been compiled from available sources with the cooperation of a number of offices of the United Nations Secretariat, of the specialized agencies and of other bodies of the United Nations system.

2. Based on the information compiled previously and the new text provided by the agencies and organizations of the United Nations, the text is organized under five headings:

I. Selected United Nations system publications on social development;

II. Assessing and monitoring the extent of world poverty;

III. Work on social indicators;

IV. Composite indexes;

V. Goals and targets for monitoring social progress.

Annex I contains a list of recent and planned future United Nations system publications on social development, and in particular on the three core issues of the Summit. Annex II contains an annotated list of publications with data and analyses on world poverty. Some tables and graphs on selected social development indicators are presented in annex III.

I. SELECTED UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM PUBLICATIONS ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INDICATORS

3. For over 40 years the compilation, analysis and dissemination of reliable information has been one of the functions of the United Nations system, and the organizations of the system have developed a variety of networks and mechanisms for gathering data, assessing their reliability, analysing them, and examining their implications for policy-making at the national and international levels. Global in perspective and multidisciplinary in character, the work of the United Nations system relating to statistics and indicators and other information on social development addresses the complex interrelationship of economic and social phenomena. This work supports international policy dialogue and deliberations, and provides information to Member States for their use in national policy-making and analysis.

4. Many major periodic publications of the United Nations system present statistics, indicators and analysis of social conditions and trends.

5. The United Nations publishes a quadrennial Report on the World Social Situation, which was initiated in 1952 to support the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development. The report examines trends in the main indicators of social development and the relationship between economic growth and social development and discusses policy choices. The 1993 report includes analyses of poverty, unemployment and underemployment, ethnic conflict and national disintegration as well as hunger, health, education, housing, sanitation, the environment and other issues of concern to the Summit. The report contains selected national and regional data for the issues examined.

6. Since 1954, the Statistical Division, in close collaboration with other concerned international statistical services, has prepared the companion series, Compendium of Social Statistics and Indicators. This compendium has been issued at irregular intervals, most recently in 1991. Beginning in 1985 the Statistical Division also undertook to issue more specialized statistical and analytical publications in various social fields. These have included the Disability Statistics Compendium (1990); statistical wall charts, "Children: Early Child Development and Learning Achievement" and "World Families"; a compilation Statistical Charts and Indicators on the Situation of Youth 1970-1990 (1992); the Demographic Yearbook Special Issue on Population Ageing and the Statistics of Elderly Persons (1994); and The World's Women 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics (1990).

7. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) prepares The Least Developed Countries Report annually, providing information and analysis on social and economic conditions of the countries designated by the United Nations as the least developed (currently, 47). The report for 1993-1994 includes an overview of recent developments, an analysis of domestic policy reforms and the response of donors to the special needs of the least developed countries, and a review of issues relating to education and health services. The publication contains a variety of charts and tables of selected data to accompany the text as well as a comprehensive statistical indicators.

8. The annual Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), introduced in 1990, contains an analytical section covering a variety of issues, with selected national and regional data and trends, often in graphic form, and a section of tables of human development indicators. The analytical section of the 1993 report includes examination of participation, markets, governance, and community organizations. The indicators section includes national data on health, sanitation, food supply, status of women and children, aid flows, military expenditure and a variety of other data related to Summit issues. In addition to the basic data, it also presents data analyzed to measure North-South differences, gender differences and urban-rural differences. As in the past, the core of Human Development Report, 1994 is the Human Development Index (HDI), which ranks 173 countries by a measure that combines life expectancy, educational attainment and basic purchasing power. The 1994 report advances a new concept of human security and offers several proposals for the World Summit for Social Development in March 1995.

9. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) looks at the status of children in its annual report, State of the World's Children, including an analytical

section and a section of statistical tables. The 1994 report, in its analytical section, examines global and regional trends in childhood diseases, malnutrition, public health measures and family planning. The statistical tables include national data on nutrition, health, education, population, and the status of women. In 1993, UNICFF published the first of a planned annual series, Progress of Nations, which compares national indicators of the countries of each region and compares each country's indicators with the expected performance based on the gross domestic product (GDP). The 1994 report ranks the nations of the world according to their achievements in child health, nutrition, education, family planning and progress for women.

10. On the subject of employment, the International Labour Organization (ILO) annually publishes World Labour Report, containing an analysis and selected data on employment, unemployment, and labour and working conditions in various countries. Data for developing countries are limited by the unavailability of data for many countries, and by the difficulty of defining employment and unemployment in countries where most economic activity takes place outside the modern commercial-industrial sector. The 1994 World Labour Report covers several topics including employment, labour relations, working conditions, social protection, and in particular, the rights of the working man and women.

11. The World Bank publishes an annual World Development Report, containing an analytical section on a different theme each year, an appendix of data on the annual theme, and an appendix on general development indicators. The analytical section contains selected data on the theme by selected countries, by region or by other large groups of countries. The appendices provide national data for as many countries as possible as well as regional and group averages, and contain both the most recent data and selected historic data for the past 20 years or so. The general development indicators, which remain largely the same from year to year, cover production, consumption, government budgets, trade, external finance, and human and natural resources.

12. World Development, 1993 focuses on Health. It examines national health policies world wide and measures their success in improving health and controlling health spending. World Development Report, 1994 examines the link between infrastructure and development and explores ways in which developing countries can improve both the provision and the quality of infrastructure services. Both health and infrastructure are areas in which government policy and finance have an important role to play because of their pervasive impact on economic development and human welfare. Of particular interest to the Summit is the 1990 report focusing on poverty.

13. World Education Report, 1993, prepared by UNESCO, is the second edition of a new biennial series aiming to present a broad but concise analysis of major trends and policy issues in education in the world today. The basic theme of the 1993 report is "education in a world of adjustment and change". The Report focuses on three aspects of this theme:

(a) The changing global pattern of disparities in access to education, especially in light of what has come to be known since the South Commission's report as the "knowledge gap" between the wealthy industrial countries of the Northern hemisphere and the poorer developing countries of the South. Although

progress is being made in reducing these disparities, there is a real danger of the gap widening for some of the world's poorest countries;

(b) The continuing relevance of existing international legal conventions relating to education, in light of the increasing scope for the exercise of choice in education and new challenges for equality of opportunity;

(c) The quest for new and better informed education standards, and the increasing interest in international cooperation in educational research.

14. The appendices of the report include a unique set of statistics: world education indicators, giving country-by-country data on key aspects of education in over 170 countries, and summary tables by major world region. It also includes a listing of UNESCO's reports, publications and periodicals concerning education in the period 1991-1993.

15. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) plans to produce an annual statistical yearbook for countries in the region. The first edition, to be produced in 1994, is to focus on the core issues to be considered at the Social Summit.

II. ASSESSING AND MONITORING THE EXTENT OF WORLD POVERTY

16. The measurement of poverty poses a particular problem. While poverty is commonly defined as a lack of financial resources, it is also identified with hunger and inadequate shelter and clothing. Lack of employment, education, social relations, self-esteem and other basic elements of human well-being are both consequences and causes of poverty.

17. The United Nations system has a long tradition of work related to the concepts, definitions, measurement and monitoring of poverty and associated activities in collecting, processing, analysing and disseminating data.

18. One traditional way to define poverty has been to determine a minimum income as a poverty line, based on the costs of food, shelter, clothing and other material necessities. This income-based approach to poverty measurement, however, has been criticized for its narrow economic and physiological basis and for ignoring the importance of access to public services or goods that, when available, are free-of-charge or subsidized. According to this broader interpretation of poverty, income-based poverty lines underestimate the incidence of poverty because they concentrate on private consumption and thus disregard unsatisfied basic needs in such areas as education, clean water, public health services, public transportation, a healthy environment and other non-commercial goods and services.

19. United Nations efforts in assisting and strengthening developing countries capacities for alleviating poverty have frequently entailed inter-agency collaboration and cooperation with donors and non-governmental organizations. The Secretary-General's report entitled "Policies and activities relating to assistance in the eradication of poverty and support to vulnerable groups, including assistance during the implementation of structural adjustment

programmes" (E/1992/47) addresses the issues related to the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system. The report briefly reviews recent developments in the area of poverty that are relevant to the coordination issues, and pays particular attention to the impact of structural adjustment programmes on poverty. Based on information provided by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, it outlines the strategies, priorities, policy orientations and programmatic activities of the United Nations system in the area of poverty eradication, including promotion of growth with poverty alleviation, support to vulnerable groups and amelioration of the negative impacts of structural adjustment programmes.

20. Subsequently, in response to General Assembly resolution 47/197 of 22 December 1992, the Secretary-General's report entitled "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries" (A/48/545) provides preliminary information on progress achieved since 1992 and on plans to improve further coordinated action in the fight against poverty.

21. Pursuant to the Declaration of the First Regional Conference on Poverty, held in Cartagena, Colombia, in 1988, UNDP and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) initiated a project to develop a system of social indicators that would improve the measurement of the incidence of poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean. The result, the integrated poverty measurement method, consists first of developing indicators of unsatisfied basic needs. A number of indicators of housing quality, access to primary schools and dependency ratios were identified with the assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) office for the ECLAC region, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the ILO Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

22. The World Bank developed estimates of the population in poverty and the population in absolute poverty in its Social Indicators of Development 1991-1992. These are also reflected in UNICEF's State of the World's Children, 1993 (table 6), and, with re-analysis, in UNDP's Human Development Report, 1993 (tables 3, 18, and 40). The World Bank poverty estimates in its Social Indicators Report, 1993 have dropped the term "absolute poverty" and instead use upper and lower income poverty lines for each country. These and additional data have been analysed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as a basis for estimates of rural poverty in 114 developing countries in its global study The State of World Rural Poverty: An Inquiry into its Causes and Consequences. Estimates are made for both the rural population and rural women below the poverty line. Global and regional estimates of poverty are included in the World Bank's World Development Report, 1990: Poverty (tables 2.1 and 9.2).

23. The World Bank's Social Indicators of Development, 1993 introduced new priority poverty indicators which have drawn on the household surveys carried out with the technical assistance of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat. The priority poverty indicators are used for monitoring

levels and trends in poverty and, along with related social conditions, provide a framework for assessing human welfare in low- and middle-income countries. The 1994 edition of Social Indicators of Development continues to address the priority poverty indicators, which are presented on the first page of each country table. At present, poverty lines, of variable quality, are available for about 25 countries. The coverage is expected to increase as more national household income and budget surveys are processed.

24. FAO developed nutrition-based estimates of poverty covering a large number of countries for 1964-1966 and 1984-1986, using daily calorie supply as a percentage of requirements. FAO has regularly updated its calorie supply data but dropped the percentage-of-requirements calculation and the poverty estimates after 1986, recognizing the limited reliability of the data as a measure of inadequate nutrition.

25. The progress reports on the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) include information on rural poverty, landlessness, agrarian reforms, rural employment, wages, markets, financial services, prices and access to information, research and extension services, human resource development and environment/poverty linkages.

26. Another approach to assessing economic inequality is to measure the distribution of income within a society, an approach which emphasizes relative rather than absolute poverty. Various income distribution measures can be derived from income distribution data, such as the Gini coefficient and the percentage distribution of income by percentile groups of households, most commonly by quintile (20 per cent) groups. The basic data from household surveys have been analyzed in various sources over the years - for example, in World Development Report, 1993 (table 30).

27. In the early 1990s the ILO began developmental work on a rapid assessment methodology for measuring poverty. Its purpose is to enable Governments to assess and monitor poverty rapidly, over a period of between three and six months. This methodology envisages the use of succinct household questionnaires, cluster sampling of poor households, use of new computer technology, and preparation of policy-oriented reports.

28. In September 1991 the ILO, together with UNICEF and the Economic Commission for Latin America, held an international workshop on poverty monitoring in international agencies. The result is a publication edited by Ralph van der Hoeven and Richard Anker, entitled Poverty Monitoring: An International Concern, containing proposals for the improved use of indicators and monitoring systems and their integration into policy formulation. The areas covered include: measurement and trends of poverty, poverty indicators, planning for poverty alleviation in a context of adjustment, rapid policy action for vulnerable groups, and the perspectives of international agencies on poverty.

29. In addition, in 1993 the ILO published a compendium of data concerning the incidence of poverty, entitled The Incidence of Poverty in Developing Countries: An ILO Compendium of Data, which includes detailed information on sources and methods. The compendium aims to provide a reasonably comprehensive compilation

of the available data on the extent of and changes of poverty in developing countries at the rural, urban, national and regional levels.

30. In another recent initiative, the ILO has sought to improve poverty monitoring in the rural sector of developing countries by examining the relevance and utility of indirect evidence as a means of tracing changes in rural poverty on a regular and frequent basis. Poverty monitoring in the rural sector, working paper No. 107 of the Rural Employment Policy Research Programme, aims to respond to the general absence in developing countries of continuous household income or expenditure surveys and to the fact that the latest such surveys are usually several years out of date. It therefore correlates characteristics of poverty which could potentially serve as proxy indicators. Such indicators rely on statistics of agricultural output, prices and wages, and would have to be devised suitably in the light of specific circumstances.

31. More generally, the ILO has recently been improving its data on poverty by collecting statistics on the distribution of income and expenditure. The forthcoming fourth edition of ILO household income and expenditure statistics contains the results of household income and expenditure surveys carried out in 82 countries, areas and territories from 1979 onwards. Data for the different countries are presented on a uniform basis, as far as possible. While the data are based mainly on country replies to an ILO questionnaire, for some countries they have been drawn from the survey reports published by relevant national statistical agencies. The data are illustrated by five main tables, covering: household income by source, characteristics of households, distribution of consumption expenditure, distribution of households by class and household size, and distribution of households by income class and household size.

32. The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) subcommittee on statistical activities, at its twenty-seventh session (6-8 September 1993) noted that many organizations were concerned with the question of poverty and were taking initiatives on data, measurement and other aspects of the question. It agreed to establish a task force on the measurement of poverty and requested the World Bank to act as convener and to associate the regional commissions with it. The first, formative report of the task force was submitted to the Commission at its session in April 1994 (E/CN.3/1994/12).

33. A list of United Nations system publications containing data and analyses relating to poverty is contained in annex II.

III. WORK ON SOCIAL INDICATORS

34. Human lives and social phenomena and conditions are too complex to be fully captured by the measurement of a few specific quantifiable factors. None the less, it is important to have some agreed quantitative measures and estimates to provide a common basis for discussion, analysis and policy-making. Social indicators can be defined as statistics that usefully reflect important social conditions and that facilitate the process of assessing those conditions and their evolution. Social indicators are used to identify social problems that require action, to develop priorities and goals for action and spending, and to assess the effectiveness of programmes and policies. However, it should always

be kept in mind that indicators are imperfect representations of actual conditions, both because the data do not fully capture human experience and because the data inevitably contain errors of measurement.

35. A comprehensive account with citations of United Nations system work on social indicators through 1988 is contained in the 1989 Statistical Division publication Handbook on Social Indicators, which contains international methodological guidelines. Responsibility for the coordination of international collection and methodology for social statistics and indicators rests with the Statistical Commission and the Statistical Division, and the Commission has considered reports on social indicators every two years beginning in 1974. However, international agencies continue to use a wide variety of different approaches, concepts and definitions, according to their specific interests. While the compilation and the analysis of social indicators have been undertaken by a variety of United Nations organizations, there has been little integration of monitoring programmes or coordination of specifications and procedures among organizations. The compilation, analysis and interpretation of data from different countries has also been limited by the varying forms and reliability of data from different national sources. As a result, the statistical indicators collected in support of various United Nations system programmes are often both excessive and insufficient as well as redundant, and data from different agencies on the same subject may differ. The demands on national data-gathering capabilities are often overwhelming. Recently the United Nations has undertaken to improve the coordination of social data collection, as reflected in "International coordination of social statistics and indicators and development of statistics on special groups" (E/CN.3./1989/11), compiled from a variety of sources.

36. In resolution 48/163 on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, the General Assembly notes the need within the United Nations system to aggregate data specific to indigenous peoples by means of enhancing and facilitating the coordination capabilities of Member States for collecting and analysing such data. The Centre for Human Rights would envisage cooperation with the relevant office of the Secretariat and appropriate agencies to establish a world database on indigenous peoples.

37. Since most social information, analyses and assessments in international sources are based on data collected at the national level, improving the reliability and comprehensiveness of social information depends on improving national social data services, especially in developing countries. For an extensive discussion of the weakness of data sources used in international comparisons see the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) publication entitled Measurement and Analysis of Socio-Economic Development: An Enquiry into International Indicators of Development and Quantitative Interrelations of Social and Economic Components of Development. Unfortunately, while there is a large body of data on the theory of statistical data collection and analysis and on the selection of indicators, there is very little documentation on the practical organization and implementation of social data collection programmes, especially under the difficult conditions often encountered in developing countries. Many countries therefore do not have the information they need to tackle the challenge of measuring progress towards meeting social and human development goals.

38. As a result, quantitative measures of social factors for developing countries often do not exist. When they exist, they are often not easily available; and when they are available, they are often not comprehensive. While data on public services may be available - such as the number of pupils per teacher or doctors per thousand people or square metres of housing per family - the data may conceal a lack of trained teachers, a lack of medical services in rural areas, and poor physical conditions of housing. To overcome these difficulties, indirect measures of the effectiveness of social services can be used. Thus a decline in the illiteracy rate is construed as an improvement in education, and a decline in the mortality rate or an increase in longevity is inferred as an improvement in health services. Obviously, the indirect nature of these measures leaves a great deal to be desired, but they do provide some indication of the extent and quality of public services.

39. The UNRISD publication Monitoring Social Development in the 1990s: Data Constraints, Concerns and Priorities demonstrates the need to focus social data collection efforts on a small set of core indicators that reflect most reliably the general well-being of the poor. The editors of this collection of essays propose that the United Nations undertake the task of building a consensus for a global programme to collect reliable data on core social indicators and develop simpler and cheaper methods for obtaining this information.

40. The Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat not only provides statistical expertise and coordination for data compilation and analysis at the international level but also provides assistance to Member States in the development and evaluation of national data collection and analysis capacities.

IV. COMPOSITE INDEXES

41. Per capita income remains the most widely used measure of standard of living, but there are continuing efforts to find better and more comprehensive measures of social conditions. An indicator capable of capturing wider aspects of social development, including factors such as education and public health, which are not directly related to individual income, would be a valuable analytical tool for assessing social conditions and progress.

42. In recognition of the inadequacy of any single indicator for measuring a complex phenomenon such as poverty or social development, there have been efforts to combine a number of indicators into composite indexes. Examples include the UNDP human development index (HDI) and a proposed social progress index in Latin America. Such indexes raise a number of conceptual, analytical and technical issues upon which there is no consensus. The combination of a number of indicators also may require the exclusion of countries for which any of the component indicators is unavailable.

43. Calculation of a composite index requires the component indicators to be combined using weighting factors to transform the different units of measurement, and perhaps using non-linear calculations. Given the quite different values that different cultures place on various aspects of individual

and social life, developing a system of weighting that would be generally acceptable for international use poses difficult problems. These issues were considered at length in the 1977 United Nations study, The Feasibility of Welfare-oriented Measures to Supplement the National Accounts and Balances: A Technical Report (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/22). The question of a composite measure based on national accounts was also considered by the Statistical Commission in 1976 at the request of the Committee for Development Planning. At that time, the Commission agreed that it would be inappropriate to try to develop international standards for an alternative aggregate to GDP to measure welfare and that this was a more suitable area for research than for statistical compilation. The Commission reaffirmed its reservations on the soundness of composite indices of social progress at its twenty-sixth session, in 1991. More recently, this issue has been examined for the ESCAP region, as reflected in Study on the Development of Quality of Life Indicators in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/868). The Expert Meeting on Social Integration, convened as part of the preparations for the Summit, considered the usefulness of a composite index of social integration and concluded that it was not recommended.

44. The UNDP human development index (HDI) has been part of the annual Human Development Report since 1990, incorporating national indicators of health, education and income. Adult literacy has been used since 1990 as an indicator of education, with mean years of schooling added in 1991, and average life expectancy is used as an indicator of health conditions. Per capita GDP is used as the measure of income, adjusted for purchasing power parity differences among countries. UNDP is continually reviewing the value of such a composite index of human development and how it might be improved.

45. A number of composite indexes of well-being have been developed by IFAD in its study The State of World Rural Poverty: An Inquiry into its Causes and Consequences. At the national level deprivation is measured in terms of food security (food security index), integrated poverty (integrated poverty index), basic needs supply (basic needs index), relative welfare (relative welfare index), status of women (women status index).

46. The food security index portrays the composite food security situation of each country by relating food production and consumption variables. The integrated poverty index combines the head-count measure of poverty with the income-gap ratio, income distribution below the poverty line and annual per capita GNP growth. The basic needs index is a combination of an education index and a health index, covering literacy and health-related indicators. The relative welfare index combines the other three indexes. Finally, the study proposes a women's status index which would integrate maternal mortality, adult literacy and primary and secondary enrolment rate, labour force status, contraceptive use, and migrant female/male wage ratio.

47. At the household level, a wide range of indicators of deprivation is applied, and for the first time in poverty analysis, a process analysis is undertaken to rank processes in each country in terms of their degree of dominance over rural poverty.

48. The 1993 Committee on World Food Security endorsed a new aggregate household food security index (AHFSI) for each country developed by FAO to

monitor, at the international level, trends in household food security status. The methodology used combines estimates of per capita food availability for human consumption with information on the distribution of available food, and estimates of the food-gap of the representative undernourished and of the inequality in the distribution of the food-gap.

49. The FAO also collects data on the nutritional status of all members of sample households which, combined with data on socio-economic characteristics, are useful proxies for social development. Nutritional indicators include the body mass index, developed by FAO as a measure of chronic energy deficiency in adults.

V. GOALS AND TARGETS FOR MONITORING SOCIAL PROGRESS

50. During the past decade the United Nations system has made special efforts to promote social welfare and has convened a number of intergovernmental conferences to address common international social needs and focus United Nations system activities on meeting those needs. Some of those conferences have adopted specific goals, targets and timetables for progress in various social areas. The need to monitor progress toward meeting those goals has focused attention on defining indicators of social conditions, collecting and analysing data corresponding to those indicators, and interpreting the results in terms of actual human lives.

51. International social and human development goals and targets have been adopted for the 1990s through such international agreements as the (1981) Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000, the (1989) Amsterdam Declaration on a Better life for Future Generations, (1990) World Declaration on Education for All, the (1990) World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children, and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (1985). The goals adopted by those agreements are wide-ranging and embrace a broad spectrum of human development concerns, including reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality rates; reduction of malnutrition; universal access to safe drinking-water, health services and basic education; reduction of adult illiteracy; improvement in health and education opportunities; elimination or reduction of various childhood diseases; and equality of women and men.

52. UNICEF and WHO collaborate in monitoring the health goals of the World Summit for Children. This includes the development of indicators, the establishment of guidelines for the use of indicators and collaborating on the process of reporting at mid-decade on the global progress towards these goals.

53. UNICEF reports (A/48/321) that some 89 countries now have finalized national programmes of action, all of which are concerned with eliminating or greatly reducing the worst manifestation of poverty by the year 2000. Together with roughly 26 national programmes still being drafted, these cover almost 90 per cent of the populations in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

54. FAO has also started developing risk maps in selected countries with the aim of establishing a base for evaluating specific early-warning indicators of centres of vulnerability to food security at the subnational level and among different categories of the population. These indicators could be monitored on a regular basis, enhancing the effectiveness of the crop-monitoring system and providing early information for emergency assistance and food-aid planning.

55. To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations data and information services, an inter-agency working group on social indicators was established in 1989 to help develop a sound basis upon which progress towards social goals could be measured. The working group consists of representatives of UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNDP and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat. The Statistical Commission, at its 1991 session, endorsed the working group programme for monitoring the achievement of social goals in the 1990s, agreeing that while the technical, organizational and policy challenges posed were formidable, the need for action was timely and urgent.

56. Based on the social goals and targets of the international agreements mentioned above and taking into account the needs of UNDP for its human development initiative and Human Development Report, the working group selected a set of 34 priority social indicators. Pilot studies were carried out in five developing countries, and the results of this work were reported to the Statistical Commission at its twenty-seventh session (E/CN.3/1993/20). The Commission emphasized the need for inter-agency cooperation and coordination in resolving conceptual and definitional issues on the compilation of indicators and noted that the work of the inter-agency working group and related work in the Statistical Division would take on additional importance because of the World Summit for Social Development.

57. The United Nations system has made much progress in recent decades in developing and improving indicators for social conditions and standards of living in the world. These efforts have contributed to knowledge and understanding of social phenomena and to helping decision makers evaluate and improve social policies. However, significant gaps in the development, availability and use of indicators remain. Integrated international and national programmes are lacking for coordinating and improving social monitoring mechanisms, and there is urgent need to improve the data collection and analysis capabilities at the national level, particularly in developing countries. Meeting these needs will require international cooperation in defining standardized data, in developing effective data collection and analysis procedures, and in efficiently compiling and disseminating the data at the international level. Technical and financial assistance to developing countries by international and national agencies can make an important contribution to improving information on global social development.

Annex I

LIST OF RECENT UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM PUBLICATIONS ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

A. General social development

United Nations Secretariat

Report on the World Social Situation, 1993.

The World's Women: Trends and Statistics 1970-1990.

World Economic and Social Survey, 1994.

Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa (ECA).

Report on the African social situation in 1993 (ECA).

Report on the implementation of the African Charter for Social Action (ECA).

Khartoum Declaration: Towards a Human-focused Approach to Socio-economic Development in Africa (ECA).

The economic crisis, structural adjustment and higher education in Africa (ECA).

The role of Africa's institutions of higher learning in economic integration to meet the challenges of the 1990s and beyond (ECA).

African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa, 1994 (ECA).

Building, Strengthening and Effectively Utilizing Human Capacities for Sustained Development in Africa, 1994 (ECA).

Changing Production Patterns with Social Equity, 1990 (ECLAC).

Sustainable Development: Changing Production Patterns, Social Equity and the Environment, 1991 (ECLAC).

Social Equity and Changing Production Patterns: An Integrated Approach, 1992 (ECLAC).

Education and Knowledge: Basic Pillars of Changing Production Patterns with Social Equity, 1992 (ECLAC).

Population, Social Equity and Changing Production Patterns, 1993 (ECLAC).

Regional Social Development Strategy for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP, 1992).

Socio-cultural Impact of Human Resources Development (ESCAP, 1992).

Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development (ESCAP, 1992).

Towards a Social Development Strategy for the ESCAP Region (ESCAP, 1992).

Quality of Life in the ESCAP region (ESCAP, 1994).

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1993 (ESCAP, 1994).

Survey of social trends and social indicators in the ESCWA region, 1993.

The impact of recent crises on the social situation in ESCWA region, 1993.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The State of the World's Children

The Progress of Nations

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

The State of World Population

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The State of Food and Agriculture

Nutrition in Development - A Global Assessment

International Labour Organization (ILO)

World Labour Report, 1992, 1993, 1994 (vols. 5-7)

Towards social adjustment: Labour market issues in structural adjustment, 1991

Social debt: the challenge of equity (ILO/PREALC), 1993

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United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

The Crisis of Social Development in the 1990s: Preparing for the World Social Summit, Report of UNRISD's 30th Anniversary Conference

Monitoring Social Progress in the 1990s

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A Call for Action: Promoting Health in Developing Countries, 1989

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The Urban Health Crisis: Strategies for Health for All in the Face of Rapid Urbanization, 1993

The Health of Young People. A Challenge and a Promise, 1993

Guidelines for the Development of Health Management Information Systems, 1993

World Bank

World Development Report(s)

B. Reduction and elimination of widespread poverty

United Nations Secretariat

Report of the Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation

National reports submitted to the Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation

Study on social security systems and national development in Africa (ECA)

The state of social development in Africa and the policy challenges for the 1990s (ECA)

The status of social development in Africa at the end of the 1980s and prospects for the 1990s (ECA)

Implications of apparent impact of structural adjustment programmes on population (ECA)

Capacity Building for Food Production, Food Security and Self-Sufficiency in Africa, 1994 (ECA)

Preparatory activities of the World Summit for Social Development: Progress Report, 1994 (ECA)

Agricultural Success Cases for Rural Poverty Alleviation (ESCAP, 1992)

Report of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development, first session, and its follow-up (ESCAP, 1993).

The poverty situation in Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP, 1993).

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United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Reforma social y pobreza (UNDP/IADB)

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Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

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Assessing, analysing and monitoring nutrition situations: theme No. 7

The Impact of Stabilization and Structural Adjustment Policies on the Rural Sector: Case Studies of Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Liberia, Zambia and Morocco, by E. M. Classen and P. Salin. ESD Paper No. 90. ISBN 92-5-102894

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

Poverty alleviation, employment and shelter provision: A review of the literature

The urban poor as agents of development: Community action planning in Sri Lanka

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Guidelines for rural shelter improvement, poverty alleviation and sustainable development

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Income policies in the wider context: wage, price and fiscal initiatives in developing countries, 1992

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C. Productive employment and the reduction of unemployment

United Nations Secretariat

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D. Social integration

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Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 (ESCAP, 1993)

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The Situation of Marginalized Youth Groups and Measures to Promote their Participation in Development in the ESCWA Region, 1992 (ESCWA)

Regional programme of action for youth in the ESCWA region, 1994 (ESCWA)

Impact of social and economic changes on the Arab family: An Exploratory Study, 1992 (ESCWA)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The State of the World's Refugees 1993

Collection of International Instruments concerning Refugees, 1979

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Ethnies et nations: le cas du Sénégal, by Makhtar Diof. L'Harmattan

Ethnicity and development: the Case of Fiji, DP 46.

Nationalities and Conflicting Ethnicity in Post-Communist Russia, by Valery Tishkov, DP 50, March 1994.

In Search of Cool Ground: Displacement and Return in North-East Africa, edited by Tim Allen. James Currey Ltd. (in press).

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United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

Community Participation in Zambia. The DANIDA/UNCHS Training Programme (HS/272/92)

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Job creation for disabled people: a guide for employers' organizations, 1992

Job creation for disabled people: a guide for workers' organizations, 1992

New technologies and the employment of disabled persons, 1992

Gender, work and population in sub-Saharan Africa, 1994

Aid in place of migration, 1994

Affirmative action: an international perspective, 1994

The work of strangers (forthcoming), 1994

Annex II

UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM PUBLICATIONS CONTAINING DATA AND ANALYSES RELATING TO POVERTY

United Nations. "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries" (A/46/454), especially section 2C, Incidence of poverty, and chapter III, Impact of the international economic environment on poverty during the 1980s. Table 1 Change in real per capita income, 1980-1990, includes percentage increase or decrease by country, calculated by the secretariat from international agency sources; table 2 provides regional aggregates for changes in per capita GDP and per capita income.

United Nations. "Policies and activities relating to assistance in the eradication of poverty and support to vulnerable groups, including assistance during the implementation of structural adjustment programmes" (E/1992/47), especially chapter I, Recent trends relating to poverty.

United Nations. Compendium of Social Statistics and Indicators 1988 (Statistical Division, Series K, No. 9). Table 30, Percentage distribution of income by percentile groups of households, years around 1960, 1970 and latest available year, and poverty estimates 1977-1986. Sources: World Bank and unpublished data from the United Nations Secretariat.

United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report, 1993 (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1993). In the section entitled "Human Development Indicators", table 3, Profile of human deprivation (developing countries), includes: "People in absolute poverty, total and rural, 1991"; table 18, Wealth, poverty and social investment (developing countries), includes "Income share (lowest 40 per cent of household and ratio of highest 20 per cent to lowest 20 per cent), 1985-1989" (the same series is also contained in table 40, Wealth, poverty and social investment, industrial countries), "Gini coefficient, 1975-1988 and "People in absolute poverty, total, urban and rural, 1977-1989". Source: World Bank as reanalysed by the Human Development Report team.

ECLAC, "Panorama social de America latina", annual tables on distribution of income, changes in distribution of income in the 1980s, and population in poverty and extreme poverty, for selected countries, calculated by ECLAC from its household survey database.

ESCAP, "Compendium of social development indicators in the ESCAP region, 1993" (ST/ESCAP/1293) 1993 contains 100 tables presenting data, mostly in five-year intervals from 1975 to 1990, in nine major subject areas: demography, health, human settlements and environment, education, transport, communications, employment, output and income and national social expenditure.

UNICEF, State of the World's Children, 1993 (New York, UNICEF). Table 6 includes "Percent of population below absolute poverty level 1980-1989, urban/rural". Source: World Bank.

International Labour Office, World Employment Programme, The Incidence of Poverty in Developing Countries: An ILO Compendium of Data, by Hamid Tabatabai, with Manal Fouad (Geneva, 1993), provides a comprehensive review of estimates of the incidence of poverty. Sources: estimates from national survey results and poverty lines or other poverty standards for 120 countries or areas, mainly from the 1970s to the late 1980s.

World Bank, World Development Report, 1993 (Oxford, Oxford University Press). Table 30, Income distribution and ICP estimates of GDP, includes percentage share of household income by percentile group of households, 1979-1988. Sources: ECLAC; Luxembourg Income Study; OECD; United Nations, World Bank and national sources. See also S. Chen, G. Datt and M. Ravallion, "Is poverty increasing in the developing world?", World Bank Working Paper Series, No. 1146.

World Bank, World Development Report, 1990 (Oxford, Oxford University Press). Table 2.1, How much poverty is there in the developing countries: the situation in 1985, includes extremely poor and poor populations by number and percentage by developing region. Table 9.2, Poverty in 2000, includes incidence of poverty and number of poor. Sources: Martin Ravallion, Gaurav Datt, Dominique van de Walle and Elaine K. Chan, "Quantifying the magnitude and severity of absolute poverty in the developing world in the mid-1980s", World Development Report 1990 background paper, and World Bank estimates.

World Bank, Social Indicators of Development, 1991-1992 (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992). Tables for each country include population in absolute poverty, urban and rural. Source: World Bank data. The 1993 issue uses the terms "upper poverty line" and "lower poverty line", with percentage of population in each group.

International Fund for Agricultural Development, The State of World Rural Poverty: An Inquiry into its Causes and Consequences, by Idris Jazairy, Mohiuddin Alamgir and Theresa Panuccio (New York, New York University Press, 1992). Table 2 presents an "integrated poverty index for 114 developing countries: Rural population below the poverty line, for years around 1965 and 1988". Sources: IFAD documents; ILO poverty database; UNDP, Human Development Report, 1990; World Bank World Development Report, 1990 and other World Bank sources. Table 13 estimates rural women in poverty in the mid-1980s, using table 2 data with data on women-headed households.

Annex III

SELECTED SOCIAL INDICATORS

Table 1. Estimated adult literacy rates (percentages), by sex, 1980-2000

	1980			1990			2000		
	MF	M	F	MF	M	F	MF	M	F
World total	67.2	74.9	59.5	74.7	82.2	67.3	79.8	85.3	74.2
Developing countries	55.2	66.5	43.6	66.7	77.0	56.2	73.9	81.3	66.4
of which:									
Sub-Saharan Africa	32.5	43.2	22.3	47.3	59.5	35.6	59.7	70.2	49.6
Arab States	37.0	50.9	22.9	51.3	64.3	38.0	61.9	72.9	50.6
Latin America/Caribbean	79.5	82.1	76.9	84.9	86.4	83.4	88.5	89.7	87.3
East Asia/Oceania	65.9	77.9	53.5	80.2	88.2	71.9	88.0	92.3	83.6
of which: China	62.4	77.3	46.5	77.8	87.0	68.1	87.2	92.0	82.2
Southern Asia	38.3	51.7	24.0	46.1	59.1	32.2	54.1	66.2	41.2
of which: India	40.2	54.5	24.9	48.2	61.8	33.7	56.3	68.5	43.2
Least developed countries	27.6	38.5	16.8	39.6	51.4	27.9	49.0	60.8	37.3
Developed countries	94.6	95.6	93.7	96.7	97.4	96.1	98.5	99.0	98.0

Source: World Education Report, 1993 (Paris, UNESCO).

Table 2. Gross enrolment ratios (percentages): by level and sex, 1980 and 1990

	First level				Second level				Third level			
	1980		1990		1980		1990		1980		1990	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
World total	103.2	88.1	104.8	93.0	50.4	40.0	55.0	45.6	12.3	9.7	13.7	11.6
Developing countries	103.7	85.2	105.2	91.2	42.4	28.7	48.2	36.2	6.5	3.7	8.4	5.4
of which:												
Sub-Saharan Africa	87.7	67.3	75.4	61.2	20.7	10.8	21.7	14.4	2.1	0.5	3.1	1.1
Arab States	88.0	63.8	92.2	74.1	46.9	29.1	60.2	45.7	12.8	5.9	14.7	8.7
Latin America/Caribbean	105.9	103.1	108.6	105.1	44.9	45.7	51.1	55.5	15.3	11.9	18.4	16.4
Eastern Asia/Oceania	117.3	102.7	123.2	115.3	50.4	37.1	53.2	44.0	4.2	2.5	5.8	3.9
of which: China	120.9	103.3	130.4	119.7	54.0	37.5	54.0	41.9	1.8	0.6	2.1	1.1
Southern Asia	91.1	60.4	100.6	76.3	37.0	18.9	48.7	29.3	6.6	2.5	9.0	4.0
of which: India	100.0	68.4	111.5	84.4	40.0	20.3	54.3	32.5	7.6	3.0	10.5	4.9
Least developed countries	67.8	44.8	72.4	56.8	18.5	8.2	21.1	12.2	2.9	1.0	3.5	1.4
Developed countries	101.4	100.4	102.7	100.9	84.6	87.0	88.6	92.0	31.1	29.3	36.9	39.0
of which:												
Northern America	99.5	98.8	109.8	102.8	87.8	90.2	91.7	91.6	52.0	56.4	67.1	83.8
Asia/Oceania	102.1	102.2	101.6	101.7	88.4	90.8	93.2	95.7	38.0	21.1	34.9	25.7
Europe/former USSR	103.6	102.2	101.9	102.0	85.2	87.5	89.5	94.3	22.9	21.1	28.4	28.2

Source: World Education Report, 1993 (Paris, UNESCO).

Table 3. Public expenditure on education, 1980-1991

	US$ (billions)			Percentage of GNP		
	1980	1985	1991	1980	1985	1991
World total	572.6	616.4	1 119.1	5.1	5.0	5.1
Developing countries of which:	96.5	97.5	168.0	3.9	4.0	4.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	10.8	8.1	8.6	5.2	4.5	4.6
Arab States	18.0	23.6	25.5	4.5	5.9	5.5
Latin America/Caribbean	34.2	28.5	47.8	4.1	4.1	4.2
Eastern Asia/Oceania	16.1	20.1	36.4	2.8	3.2	3.4
of which: China	7.6	7.7	8.6	2.5	2.6	2.3
Southern Asia	12.8	14.7	40.9	4.1	3.3	4.1
of which: India	4.8	7.1	9.1	2.8	3.4	3.5
Least developed countries	2.3	2.5	4.6	3.0	3.1	3.3
Developed countries of which:	476.1	518.9	951.1	5.4	5.3	5.3
Northern America	156.2	223.1	347.1	5.2	5.1	5.5
Asia/Oceania	73.0	79.3	179.8	5.8	5.1	4.8
Europe/former USSR	246.9	216.5	424.2	5.5	5.5	5.3

Source: World Education Report, 1993 (Paris, UNESCO).

Table 4. Health indicators (percentages)

Year	1989-1991			1988-1991			1985-1992
Region	Access to safe water	Access to safe water, urban	Access to safe water, rural	Access to adequate sanitation, total	Access to adequate sanitation, urban	Access to adequate sanitation, rural	Access to health services, total
Sub-Saharan Africa	43	75	35	35	57	27	56
Middle East and North Africa	77	94	61	68	93	46	78
South Asia	80	85	78	19	54	6	52
East Asia and Pacific	68	83	63	71	70	70	87
Latin America and the Caribbean	78	87	55	66	80	33	74
Developing countries	70	85	64	51	70	41	77
Least developed countries	49	64	46	33	61	26	48

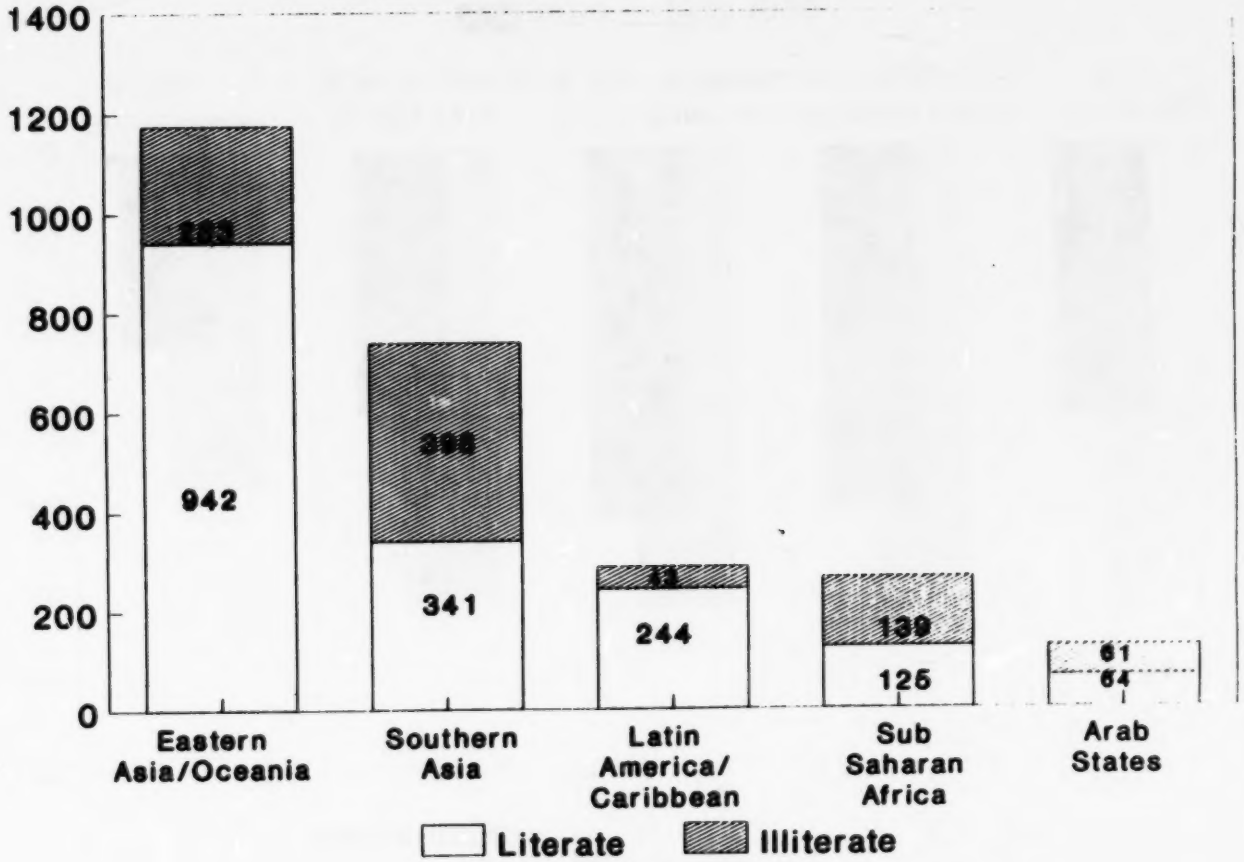
Source: State of the World's Children, 1994 (New York, UNICEF).

Table 5. Health expenditure, life expectancy and mortality world wide, 1990

Region	Health expenditure (per capita in US$)	Health expenditure (as percentage of GDP)	Percentage of world population	Life expectancy at birth	Infant mortality rate (per thousand)
Sub-Saharan Africa	24	4.5	9.68	52	17.5
India	21	6.0	16.13	58	12.5
China	11	3.5	21.53	69	4.3
Other Asia	61	4.5	12.97	62	9.7
Latin America and the Caribbean	105	4.0	8.43	70	6.0
Middle East and North Africa	77	4.1	9.55	61	11.1
Central and Eastern Europe and CIS	142	3.6	6.57	72	2.2
Industrialized market economies	1 860	9.2	15.15	76	1.1
World	323	8.0	100	65	9.6

Sources: World Bank and ILO.

Figure I. Estimated total literate and illiterate populations aged 15 and over in developing countries, by region, 1990 (millions)



Source: World Education Report, 1993 (Paris, UNESCO).

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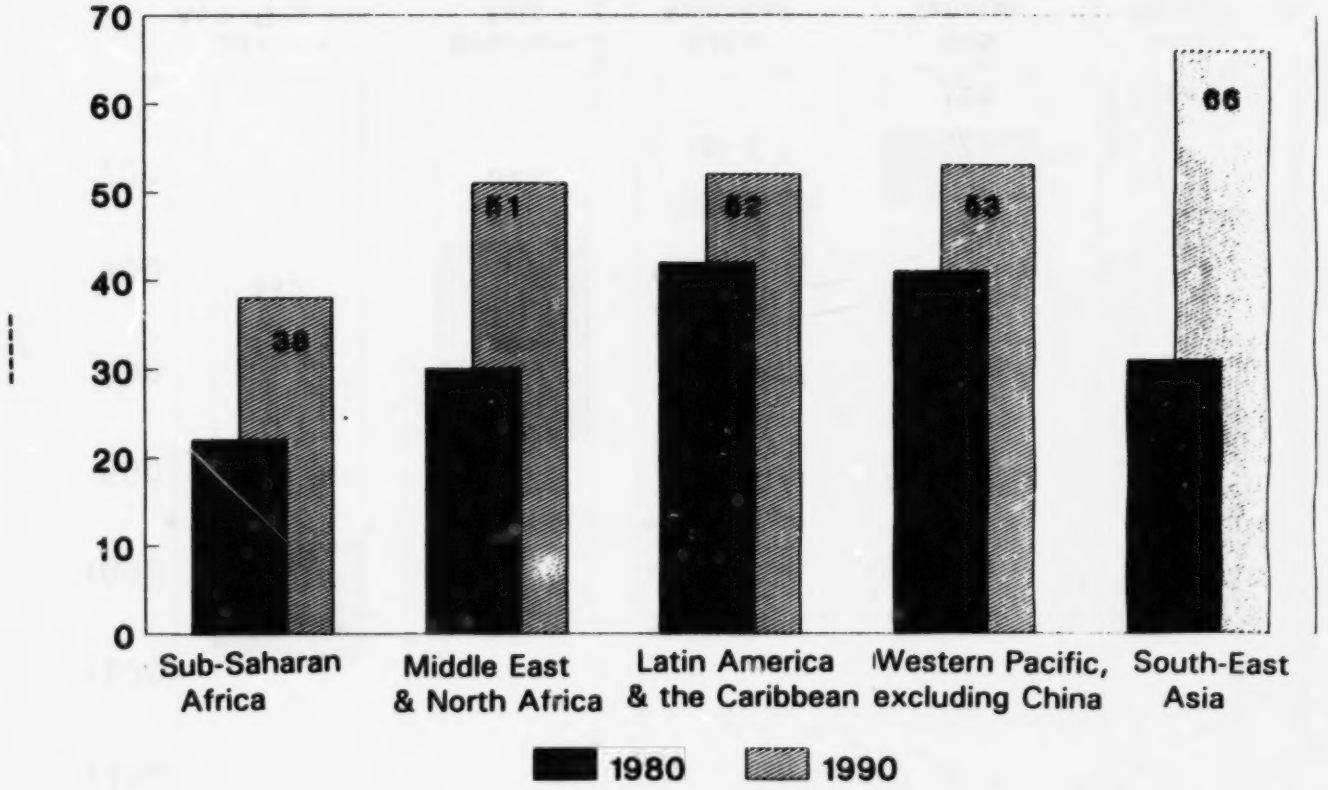
Figure II. People with access to safe water in the rural areas of developing countries (percentage)



Source: State of the World's Children, 1994 (New York, UNICEF).